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JFK ACT RELEASE

Cuba Says C.I.A. Fabricated Evidence on Kennedy

3 AUG 1978

By ALAN RIDING
Special to The New York Times

HAVANA, Aug. 2 — Cuba accused the United States Central Intelligence Agency today of fabricating evidence in order to link Havana with the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and thus justify further American efforts to overthrow the Castro Government.

In lengthy testimony before a political "tribunal," organized to coincide with the 11th International Youth Festival, Cuban officials also charged the C.I.A. with plotting numerous assassination attempts against Cuba's President, Fidel Castro.

Evidence of some of these plots was provided by six Cuban "double agents," who apparently infiltrated Cuban exile groups in Miami and collaborated with the C.I.A. until as recently as 1976.

But while many of the Cuban charges were not new — some witnesses even quoted evidence from the report of the United States Senate's Select Committee on the C.I.A. — the Cuban Government did provide fresh testimony casting doubt on some C.I.A. claims that linked President Kennedy's accused assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald, to Cuba.

Eusebio Azcué López, a former Cuban consul in Mexico City, told the tribunal that the person claiming to be Lee Harvey Oswald who visited him Sept. 27, 1963, to request a visa for Cuba was not the same person who appeared in films and photographs as the arrested assassin of Mr. Kennedy. The Warren Commission reported the C.I.A.'s evidence that Lee Harvey Oswald had visited the Cuban consulate on that day.

"In no way did the person I saw in film and photographs resemble the person who visited me," said Mr. Azcué, who has never before given evidence in public. "The person in the film was younger and with a pudgier face compared to the hard lines and older face of the person who requested the visa."

A member of a so-called Cuban Investigating Commission, Idalberto Guevara Quintana, who presented today's main charges against the C.I.A., said that there was a growing body of evidence suggesting efforts to link Cuba to the assassination even before it took place.

Mr. Guevara charged that, contrary to evidence presented to the Warren Commission, no one by the name of Lee Harvey Oswald belonged to the so-called "Fair Play to Cuba" organization in the United States and that no affiliate of that group existed in New Orleans, where Mr. Oswald had allegedly been a militant.

He also said that, contrary to evidence presented by the C.I.A. to the Senate's Select Committee, the person who sought a visa for Cuba in Mexico City never announced while in the consulate that he was planning to kill President Kennedy.

The C.I.A., Mr. Guevara said, tried to link Cuba to the murder by emphasizing links between Mr. Oswald's assassin, Jack Ruby, and the Mafia leader Santos Traficante, who visited Cuba in 1959 in an unsuccessful effort to persuade Mr. Castro to reopen Havana's casinos.

Mr. Guevara further maintained that the C.I.A. has tried to hide the fact that Lee Harvey Oswald was recruited by the agency while in Japan in 1958.

Mr. Guevara accused the C.I.A. of deceiving the Senate's Select Committee by suggesting that Rolando Cubelas Secades, who is now serving a 25-year prison term here for espionage for the United States, was in fact a double agent, thus trying to discredit his evidence of assassination plots against President Castro. Mr. Cubelas appeared before the tribunal today and admitted working for the C.I.A. in Cuba from 1961 to 1966.

Another witness before the tribunal, which has been organized with the principal objective of placing the C.I.A. on trial and which is called "Youth Accuses Imperialism," was Juan Felaifel Canahan, a Cuban intelligence agent who infiltrated Cuban exile groups and the C.I.A. in Miami between April 1963 and February 1966.

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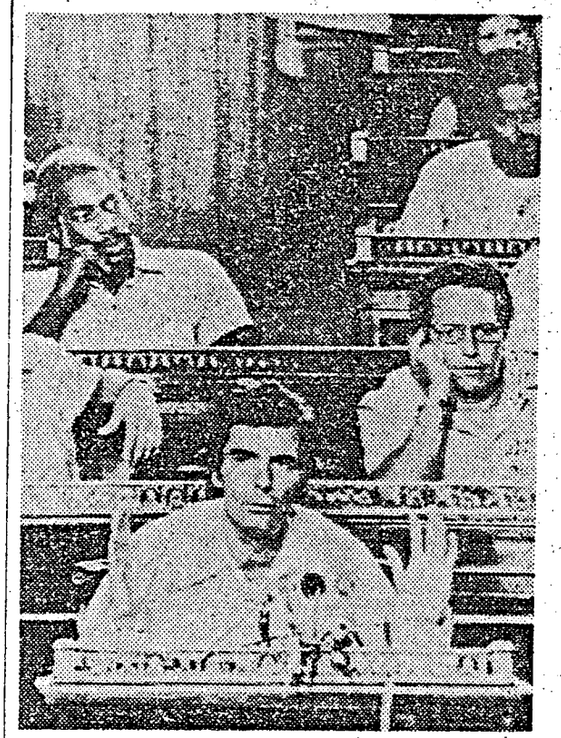
THE WASHINGTON POST A 19
Thursday, August 3, 1978



Associated Press

Philip Agee testifies in Havana at "tribunal against imperialism." The former CIA officer and some colleagues bent on "exposing CIA personnel and operations" are putting together the Covert Action Information Bulletin, published here.

Cuba Charges CIA Plotted to Kill Castro As Recently as 1976

By Marlise Simons
Special to The Washington Post

HAVANA — The Cuban government mounted a major attack on the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency yesterday, producing for the first time alleged double agents who claimed that CIA efforts to assassinate Premier Fidel Castro continued until as recently as 1976.

The charges were made before a so-called "tribunal against imperialism" being conducted while 20,000 young leftists and communists from 140 nations take part in this week's 11th International Youth Festival.

In addition to the new charges concerning a number of alleged CIA plots to assassinate Castro, the double agents and other Cuban prisoners who testified yesterday also made new allegations related to the assassination of President Kennedy.

The Cuban government is also expected to release a 24-page document shortly called "CIA, Cuba Accuses" detailing Havana's charges that the CIA has "obscured and twisted information concerning the death of John F. Kennedy."

The decision to air these charges at yesterday's tribunal may have been designed, in part, to steal the thunder from the U.S. House Assassinations Committee, which sent a delegation here in April to pursue various questions about the Kennedy assassination.

The House panel is planning to hold public hearings on its JFK inquiry next month.

The Kennedy assassination allegations were overshadowed here yesterday, however, by testimony that plots to kill Castro continued until only two years ago, despite CIA claims that any such activities were discontinued in 1965.

This claim was made by several double agents, including Nicolas Alberto Sirgado Ros, who said he acted as a double agent for 10 years until 1976.

Sirgado, who said he was recruited by the CIA during a visit to London in 1966, said the CIA had trained him in a variety of techniques and in 1974, asked him to plant a microphone in the offices of Osmany Cienfuegos, who holds the key job of secretary to Cuba's Council of Ministers.

In 1976, Sirgado said he was asked to provide an itinerary of a visit to Angola by Castro—a request interpreted here as an indication that the CIA might have been planning to assassinate the Cuban leader while he was on that trip.

Sirado said he passed carefully prepared misinformation to the CIA, and later that year, received a letter of congratulation and a wrist watch from Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Another Cuban, Jose Fernandez Santos, said a further threat on Castro's life was expected in Mexico in 1976.

Two men, whom he identified as Francisco Manuel Camargo Saavedra and Patricio Sanchez, scouted Mexico City's airport and a downtown monument as possible sites for the assassination, Fernandez said.

A succession of five former double agents provoked strong emotional responses with stories of how they had succeeded in sabotaging CIA plots to kill Castro.

One of the self-professed double agents, Abel Haidar Elias, testified that on one occasion, he had been given a powerful rifle to pass to a chosen assassin.

When the agent told the tribunal that he had never delivered the weapon, the audience gave him a standing ovation.

The panel also heard a variety of claims regarding the Kennedy assassination.

Much of the testimony suggested that the CIA had sought to convince the public that Lee Harvey Oswald had dealings with Cuba long before the Kennedy assassination. By so doing, witnesses argued, the sources behind the Kennedy murder could protect the real culprit and instead involve Cuba, thus justifying a U.S. invasion to overthrow Castro.

The most dramatic testimony came from Eusebio Azcue Lopez, who was consul at the Cuban Embassy on Sept. 27, 1963, when a man claiming to be Lee Harvey Oswald requested a visa to travel to Cuba.

Azcue said "the man I saw on TV being killed by Jack Ruby, in no way looked like the man I had seen three months earlier."

The CIA photos of Oswald presented to the Warren Commission "were also not of the man I had seen" in Mexico, Azcue said. He told the tribunal he reported this immediately to Raul Roa, then Cuban foreign minister.

Rolando Cubelas Secades, now serving a 25-year prison term, also appeared and denied the CIA's claim that he was a double agent, saying, "This is completely false, a perfidious lie."

Cubelas, who has already served more than 12 years in prison for "crimes aganst the state," appeared emotional as he left jail yesterday for the first time. The man who is said to have gone under the CIA code name AM LASH told the tribunal he worked only for the CIA between 1961 and his arrest in 1966.

6659

Worldwide Effort Being Launched to 'Destabilize' CIA

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

Perched just below Dupont Circle is the apparently temporary headquarters of a new international campaign to "destabilize" the Central Intelligence Agency.

The anti-CIA announcements are being made in Havana, but the vehicle is a magazine being put together by former CIA officer Philip Agee, "the agency's No. 1 nemesis," and a number of colleagues bent on "exposing CIA personnel and operations whenever and wherever we find them."

The new publication, which is expected to appear roughly six times a year, is called the Covert Action Information Bulletin, and its tone is uncompromising. Urging a worldwide effort to print the name of anyone who works abroad for the CIA, Agee advises readers of the premier issue not to stop there. Once the names have been made public, he recommends:

"Then organize public demonstrations against those named—both at the American embassy and at their homes—and, where possible, bring pressure on the government to throw them out. Peaceful protest will do the job. And when it doesn't, those whom the CIA has most oppressed will find other ways of fighting back."

Agee concludes: "We can all aid this struggle, together with the struggle for socialism in the United States itself."

"This thing is incredible . . . unbelievable," exclaimed CIA spokesman Herbert Hetu. "The motivation of these people has got to be more than that they're just ticked off at the CIA.

"This goes beyond whistle-blowing," Hetu added of the magazine. "Whistle-blowing is supposed to be directed at wrongdoing. These people are operating under the overall pretext that everything we do is wrong."

Expelled from Britain and a succession of other Western European countries over the past two years, Agee is reportedly living in Rome, but the magazine is being published here by C. I. Publications Inc., a nonprofit corporation set up in the District on Dec. 22.

Its incorporators, directors and officers are William H. Schaap, a lawyer and editor in chief of a newsletter called the Military Law Reporter; Ellen Ray, a colleague of Schaap on various boards and projects; and Louis Wolf, coeditor with Agee of a new book entitled "Dirty Work: The CIA in Western Europe."

It is designed partly as a how-to-do-it book aimed at "breaking the 'cover' of thousands of CIA agents around the world."

The headquarters of C. I. Publications Inc. is given in the incorporation papers as a sixth-floor suite in the Dupont Circle Building at 1346 Connecticut Ave. NW, which houses the Public Law Education Institute.

The institute's president, Thomas P. Alder, told a reporter yesterday he had not been aware of Schaap's use of the address for his "sideshow" magazine and indicated he would put a stop to it. The institute publishes the Military Law Reporter Schaap edits.

The financing for the new undertaking was unclear. Alder said Schaap, Agee and all the others who could answer such questions were still in Havana, where they have been taking part in an anti-CIA tribunal that began last week as part of the International Youth Festival.

In announcing the plans there, Agee and Schaap have said they hope to establish a worldwide network of "researchers" who will keep CIA officers under close scrutiny and forward their names to the Covert Action Information Bulletin for publication. Others associated with Agee in the so-called "CIA Watch" are James and Elsie Wilcott, former CIA finance and support personnel who are also taking part in the Havana festival.

In a joint statement in the first (July 1978) issue of Covert Action entitled "Who We Are," Agee and the others describe the magazine as a successor to Counter-Spy, which went out of business a year and a half ago.

Counter-Spy folded after a welter of controversy over the 1975 assassination in Athens of CIA station chief Richard S. Welch. The magazine had earlier listed Welch's name as a CIA official stationed in Peru.

Unlike Counter-Spy, Agee and the others said in the first issue of Covert Action, "We are confident that there will be sufficient subscribers to make this publication a permanent weapon in the fight against the CIA, the FBI, military intelligence and all the other instruments of U.S. imperialist oppression throughout the world."

According to John H. Rees, editor of a conservative newsletter called Information Digest and Washington correspondent for the Review of the News magazine (originally put out by the John Birch Society), Schaap is a member of the National Lawyers Guild, and, with Ray, served on the Counter-Spy magazine advisory board. The two also participated together in the National Lawyers Guild's Southeast Asia Military Law Project and served as the guild's observers in February 1977 at the Baader-Meinhof trials in Stammhein. Rees reported in Information Digest's latest issue.

Several hundred copies of Covert Action were reportedly sent from Washington, and more were distributed free in Havana.

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ON PAGE A-13

NEW YORK TIMES
1 AUGUST 1978

Help Asked in Locating Assassination Witnesses

The House Committee on Assassinations has asked the public to help identify five potential witnesses it wants to question about the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The committee, which will open public hearings in two weeks, released two drawings and three photographs that are too blurred for newspaper reproduction, and said that the five persons shown in them were not believed to have been involved in the slayings themselves but might have pertinent information to give.

The snapshots show one dark-haired man sitting at a curb in Dallas near the spot where President Kennedy was shot "moments" earlier and two men who "may have been in Mexico City" in 1963, when Lee Harvey Oswald was there. One of them appeared to be blond, about 30 years old and the other gray-haired, about 50, with an aquiline nose.

One of the sketches is of a middle-aged, dark-haired, square-jawed man with high cheekbones named "Ralph," who "allegedly was in Atlanta in 1967 or 1968." The other portrays a man with close-cropped hair and a resemblance to Prince Philip of Britain. The committee said the man reportedly represented himself as a member of the United States intelligence community in the 1960's, occasionally using the name "Maurice Bishop."

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ON PAGE A-5

WASHINGTON STAR (GREEN LINE)
31 JULY 1978

SLAYINGS PANEL RELEASES 3 PHOTOS, 2 DRAWINGS

By Jeremiah O'Leary
Washington Star Staff Writer

The House assassinations committee, only two weeks away from beginning public hearings on the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has released three photographs and two composite drawings of men which the investigators hope the public will recognize and identify for the committee.

Patricia Orr, a spokesman for committee counsel Robert Blakey, said yesterday the panel hopes citizens will come forward with information about the five men that might shed light on the assassinations of King and President John F. Kennedy.

The committee did not explain what significance it attaches to identification of the men but said that "it should not be assumed that this release means the committee believes the persons in the photos and sketches were involved in the assassination of President Kennedy or Dr. King."

THERE WAS NO explanation of why the committee released the pictures so close to the beginning of open hearings. The panel has predicted it will make the final report on its findings by Dec. 31.

One of these pictures is of a young blond man who appears to be under 30 and is wearing a windbreaker. The other is of an older man with gray, bushy hair.

The third photograph, according to the committee, was taken in Dealey Plaza, in Dallas, where the Warren Commission determined that Oswald fired the shots that killed Kennedy. The features of the man in Dealey Plaza are indistinct but it appears that he was photographed sitting on the grassy knoll overlooking the scene of the assassination.

One of the drawings depicts the face of a clean-shaven man in his 20s or 30s. The committee said the drawing is that of a man who occasionally used the name "Maurice Bishop." The "Bishop" man allegedly represented himself as a member of the U.S. intelligence community in the 1960s.

It was learned that he came to the attention of the probers when a Cuban exile named Antonio Visciana told them "Bishop" had been in contact with Oswald in Dallas prior to the assassination.

THE OTHER SKETCH purportedly is that of a man identified only as "Ralph" who allegedly was in Atlanta in 1967 or 1968. The committee had subpoenaed two brothers named Leon and Claude Powell, who are described as house painters. "Ralph," the committee has been told, allegedly offered the Powell brothers money to kill King. Leon Powell testified about the incident in a closed hearing of the committee, headed by Chairman Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, but Claude Powell has refused to testify and risks a committee contempt citation.

The drawing of "Ralph" shows a hard-faced young man with dark hair, but the committee revealed no other information it has about him.

The committee said it was releasing the photos and drawings in keeping with the policy of making "best possible use of available pictorial evidence and photographic techniques." But the committee did not disclose how it got the photos or the manner in which the composite drawings were made, obviously based on descriptions of "Maurice Bishop" and "Ralph."

The committee asked that anyone who has information about any of the five contact the committee by mail.

The House committee — the Select Committee on Assassinations — has been holding closed hearings periodically for much of this year and is going public Aug. 14 with the first of the open King hearings. One key witness is expected to be James Earl Ray, who is serving a Tennessee court life sentence for the slaying of King in Memphis in 1964. The first phase of the King hearings, under the subcommittee chairmanship of Del. Walter Fauntroy, D-D.C., will last one week.

Open hearings on President Kennedy's slaying will begin Sept. 6 and continue for about one month. Then, committee sources said, final hearings on the King slaying will be held in November. In December, the Stokes committee will meet to consider all the evidence and make a determination on how it believes the assassinations were carried out. The final report will be prepared by former Life magazine writer Dick Billings and will be made public Dec. 31.

At that point the $5 million dollar probe will end and the committee will go out of existence.

RADIO TV REPORTS, INC.

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FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM CBS Sunday Night News

STATION WDVM TV
CBS Network

DATE July 30, 1978 6:30 PM

CITY Washington, D. C.

SUBJECT Assassinations Probe

ED BRADLEY: The House committee that has been investigating the murders of John F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. today asked the public for help. It released photographs and drawings of five men it would like to see identified.

Jim McManus reports.

JIM McMANUS: In Dealy (?) Plaza, in Dallas, Texas, November 22nd, 1963, moments after President Kennedy was shot, someone took this picture, one of many being studied carefully by the Assassinations Committee. Investigators would like to know this man's identity and his present whereabouts.

Several weeks before the President was shot, Lee Harvey Oswald is believed to have visited the Cuban and Soviet Embassies in Mexico City. The Assassinations Committee would like to contact two men who also may have been in Mexico City at that time. The committee will not reveal the source of its photographs, but the CIA is known to have snapped pictures of all visitors to the Soviet Embassy during that period.

The committee released this drawing of a man said to have represented himself as a U. S. intelligence agent during the 1960s. The committee says he sometimes used the name Maurice Bishop.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was shot down on the balcony of a Memphis motel in April, 1968. This man, first name Ralph, allegedly was in Atlanta, Georgia in late 1967 or in early 1968. James Earl Ray, the confessed killer of Dr. King, fled first to Atlanta after the shooting.

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The committee says it should not be assumed that any of the five men actually was involved in either assassination. But investigators say that anyone who can identify any of the men should contact the committee by mail only.

So far the new investigations of the Kennedy and King murders have been secret. The committee plans to reveal its findings in eight weeks of public hearings during the rest of this year, beginning August 14.

Jim McManus, CBS News, Washington.

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ON PAGE 21

NEWSWEEK
7 August 1978

Was There a Plot on King?

Rumors that somebody paid to have Martin Luther King assassinated ten years ago are nothing new, but the one that appeared last week had an intriguing twist to it. According to a story in The New York Times, Russell G. Byers, 46, a sometime St. Louis auto-parts dealer who has had his own brushes with the law, recently told investigators for the House assassinations committee that in late 1966 or 1967 two Missouri businessmen offered him $50,000 to arrange for King's murder. Byers said he turned them down and mentioned the offer to no one; both the businessmen are now dead. What interested investigators was that Byers's brother-in-law, John Spica, was serving a murder sentence at the time in the same prison as James Earl Ray, the man who later pleaded guilty to killing King.

Whatever the story's accuracy, it was the kind of thing bound to float into the open as the committee opens its first round of public hearings in two weeks on the assassination of King and, early next month, that of President John F. Kennedy. After spending $5 million and about 39,000 man-days on its investigations, the committee is under pressure to produce some fresh tidbits, even if they don't add up to conspiracies, and almost no lead has been too wispy to track down.

Widows: The trouble is that the trails in both assassinations are so old and cold there seems almost no way to prove anything. Byers's story is a case in point. Committee investigators want to give Ray a lie-detector test this week in Tennessee's Brushy Mountain state prison, but through his lawyer he has already said he never heard of Byers and that he and Spica "never discussed" the murder of King. The widows of the Missourians who supposedly made the offer—businessman John R. Kauffmann and prominent patent attorney John H. Sutherland—say they can't believe it.

Another line of inquiry involves Ray's own family. NEWSWEEK has learned that investigators are tracing money that flowed through bank accounts of Ray, his brothers John and Jerry, and his sister, Carol Ray Pepper. The trail has stretched from Birmingham to St. Louis to Wheeling, Ill., and investigators wonder if Ray's family might have financed his post-assassination wanderings.

Defected: In the Kennedy case, investigators have looked into the possibility that the CIA helped finance a book called "Marina and Lee"—in which author Priscilla McMillan concludes that Presidential assassin Lee Harvey Oswald could not have been part of a plot—as a way of covering up its own involvement with Oswald. (Harper & Row, the book's publisher, submitted an affidavit saying the CIA had nothing to do with it.) Taking the opposite tack, other committee staffers have sought a link between Oswald and the Soviet secret police—the KGB. CIA officers, who worked in Japan where Oswald was posted in the 1950s at an airbase, were asked for any evidence that the KGB might have recruited Oswald.

Even if none of the leads pan out, the hearings themselves could be quite a show, with Ray giving testimony from behind a glass shield or, possibly, in absentia through tape recordings. Witnesses in the Kennedy hearings may include Oswald's widow, Marina, and members of the Warren Commission—perhaps even former President Gerald R. Ford.

—DON HOLT with DAVID C. MARTIN and ELAINE SHANNON in Washington

6664

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ON PAGE A10

THE WASHINGTON POST
31 July 1978

Panel Releases Pictures Linked To Kennedy, King Assassinations

Associated Press

The House Select Committee on Assassinations released several photographs and composite drawings yesterday "in the hope that citizen recognition of them might shed additional light on the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."

• A photo the committee said was taken in Dealey Plaza, Dallas, on Nov. 22, 1963, moments after Kennedy was shot. The blurred photo shows a dark-haired man who appears to be seated on a curb.

• Photos of two men who may have been in Mexico City in the fall of 1963 when Lee Harvey Oswald, the man the Warren Commission determined shot President Kennedy, was "there." These photos also are blurred.

• A drawing of a man the committee said reportedly represented himself as a member of the U.S. intelligence community in the 1960s and who on occasion used the name "Maurice Bishop."

• A sketch of a man, "with the first name 'Ralph' who allegedly was in Atlanta in 1967 or early 1968."

The committee gave no further details of the photos and drawings.

It asked that anyone having information about the men to contact the committee by mail, not by telephone.

6665

Help Asked in Locating Assassination Witnesses

The House Committee on Assassinations has asked the public to help identify five potential witnesses it wants to question about the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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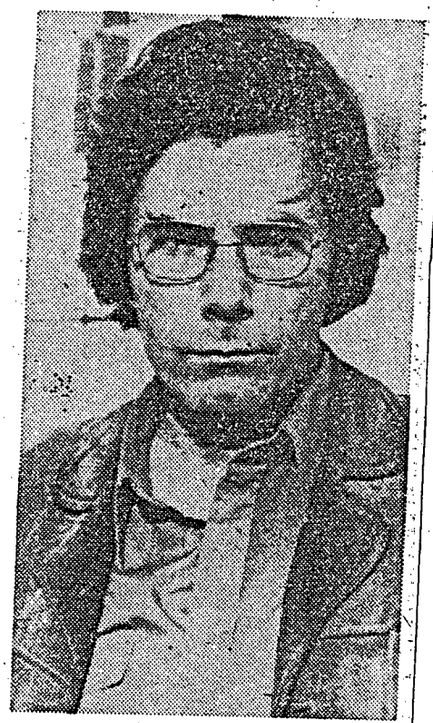

PHILIP AGEE
To blow covers

Star 18.7.78

3 Ex-Employees Plan Campaign To Unmask CIA

HAVANA (AP) — Six American leftists, including three former CIA employees, announced plans yesterday to establish a worldwide network of agents to expose CIA personnel and methods of operations.

To launch the operation, the six said they were willing to meet with members of the delegations from 145 countries that have gathered here for the 11th World Festival of Youth and Students. The festival, more than two years in preparation, has attracted some 20,000 foreign delegates.

The best known of the Americans is Philip Agee, who resigned from the CIA in 1969 after 12 years as a case officer and has since written two books on CIA activities. With Agee at his side, William Schaat, who has done research of U.S. intelligence operations, outlined the plans at a news conference at the Havana Libre Hotel.

SCHAAT SAID he and his colleagues hope to meet with as many festival delegates as possible to explain "the kind of work the CIA does and how to uncover and expose its methods.

"We hope ultimately to establish a worldwide network of involved and knowledgeable researchers who will have CIA officers under close scrutiny."

The name of the operation will be "CIA Watch," he said, and the role of the Americans will be to "check and double check the work that has been done."

Schaat said the CIA continues to attack institutions and "to corrupt or kill public officials, union leaders, students, progressive church or civic leaders or anyone else who stands in the way of the forces represented by the capitalists, imperialists, or the multi-national corporations."

The group also is collaborating on a new publication — Covert Action Information Bulletin — the first issue of which was released a few days ago.

OTHER MEMBERS of the group are James and Elsie Wilcott, who worked in finance and support for the CIA for nine years; Ellen Ray, a researcher on CIA activities; and Louis Wolf, who collaborated with Agee on a book to be published soon, "Dirty Work: The CIA in Western Europe."

The book describes in detail how to expose CIA personnel and also has detailed biographies of more than 700 U.S. intelligence personnel around the globe.

The CIA has been increasingly alarmed about public identification of its agents. One operative, Richard Welch, was assassinated in Greece after a newspaper reported his connection with the agency.

6656

APPROVED FOR RELEASE 1993
CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

House Assassination Investigations

Panel Plans Hearings on Kennedy, King

3 July 1978

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

With more than $3 million spent in its investigations thus far, the House Assassinations Committee has announced plans to wind up its work with nearly 40 days of public hearings on the murders of President John F. Kennedy and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Chairman Louis Stokes (D-Ohio) said the committee expects to begin Aug. 14 with five days of hearings on King's assasination in 1968 and then convene throughout September on the president's death in Dallas in 1963.

The House panel plans to meet again in November and December to conclude its inquiry into the King murder—for which James Earl Ray is serving a 99-year term in a Tennessee state prison.

According to informed sources, it may take more money than the committee now has to fulfill the schedule. The assassinations panel reportedly has been planning to cut some 30 staffers from the payroll and intending to seek a supplemental appropriation of several hundred thousand dollars in an effort to meet its end-of-the-year deadline.

Stokes declined to comment on those reports.

The House has already voted more than $1.5 million for the assassinations inquiry since it was first approved in September of 1976. After an initial series of controversies that nearly wiped it out, the committee resumed its work in secrecy last year.

The bulk of its expenditures thus far have been on staff salaries and travel. The committee has held only two public hearings at which it sought substantive testimony. On both occasions, the witnesses invoked their First Amendment rights against self-incrimination.

As a result, the forthcoming series of hearings will constitute the first public glimpse into the quality of the committee's work.

In announcing the tentative schedule, Stokes emphasized that the committee's field investigations would continue "up to and throughout the public hearings." For the King inquiry, he said cautiously that "an effort will be made to secure the testimony of Mr. (James Earl) Ray" as part of the attempt to determine his "involvement, if any . . . . "

After the end of the hearings Dec. 1, the committee plans to meet in public again for five days starting Dec. 12 "to discuss and resolve the issues that have been presented to it," Stokes announced.

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